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## Allen Introduces Bill to Expand Local Calling Borders

LANSING – Senator Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, today introduced a bill to allow northern Michigan island residents and smaller telephone markets to dial adjacent areas and be charged local phone service fees.

“Michigan has made great strides in expanding services and increasing competition in the telecommunications industry, but northern Michigan’s island residents and rural telephone customers are still awaiting the benefits of these advancements,” Allen said.

Senate Bill 204 would expand the local phone rate calling area to include calls originating from Michigan’s islands and smaller rural telephone markets.

“This bill is a reintroduction of legislation I sponsored last term which passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming support. Many of those members are now in the Senate, so I am encouraged for Senate Bill 204’s success in both chambers.”

The bill would benefit consumers living in communities such as Alba, Lakes of the North, Ocqueoc, Michaywe’, Boyne Falls, Elmira, Kingsley, Buckley, along with Beaver Island, Mackinac Island, Bois Blanc Island and other smaller islands.

SB 204 has been sent the Senate Technology and Energy Committee for consideration.